McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission Minutes of the General Meeting 17 October 2018

Chairman, Joseph Kersten called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1910 Hours in Conference Room 209I, at the McHenry County Administration Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock, Illinois 60098...

Secretary, **Michael Wisniewski called the roll.** A quorum of officers and a quorum of 14 delegates and alternates representing 12 posts or organizations were present.

Officer's present: (*Appointed)

Chairman	Joseph Kersten	Sr. Vice Chairman	Patrick Conley
Jr. Vice Chairman	Frank Steckleberg		
Judge Advocate	Harry Van Beetz	Sergeant At Arms	Jim Koch
McHenry County Board Rep.	Tom Wilbeck	Parliamentarian*	Harry Van Beetz
Chaplain*	Eugene Boxlietner	IACVAC Delegate*	Patrick Conley
IACVAC Alternate*	Lee Totman	Secretary*	Michael Wisniewski

Posts Represented:

American Legion	#119 Fox River Gro	ve Del	#171 Crystal Lake	Del
		Alt⊠		Alt _
	#192 Marengo	Del🖂	#253 Richmond	Del
	S	Alt□		Alt
	#265 Harvard	Del	#276 Cary	Del
		Alt _		Alt
	#412 Woodstock	Del	#491 McHenry	Del
		Alt□		Alt _
	#606 Hebron	Del	#673 Huntley	Del
		Alt□	-	Alt⊠
	#1231 Lake In the H	ills Del	Cooties Put Tent #79	Del
		Alt		Alt
AMVETS	#245 Cary-Grove	Del⊠	#269 Woodstock	Del⊠
	-	Alt		Alt⊠
Veterans Of Foreign Wars	#4600 McHenry	Del	#5040 Woodstock	Del 🖂
veterans of Foreign Wars	v	Alt		Alt□
	#12014 Crystal Lake	Del	#11496 Johnsburg	Del
	·	Alt	Q	Alt□
Sad Sacks 0962 Del	Student Veterans	Del		
Alt	Association	Alt□		
Marine Corps League Del	Polish Legion	Del	VietNow	Del
Alt D		Alt⊠		Alt⊠
Guests			y County College Studen	t Votoron
Guesis	Liaison.	an, Michell	y County Conege Studen	i v Ciciaii
	Liaisoli.			

Officers Remarks:

Chairman, Joe Kersten is requesting more participation from the absent posts in assigning delegates and alternates to represent their post membership at the VAC Inc. meetings and the VAC general meetings. More participation by the attending delegates and alternates is also sought during these meetings.

Routine Reports:

The September Minutes: Copies of the September minutes were made available to all delegates and alternates. The motion to accept the September minutes as presented and corrected was made by Patrick Conley (A.L. Post #673) and seconded by Harry Van Beetz (VFW Post #12014). The motion was passed by unanimous vote. The correction to the September minutes was in the Guests listing with Mrs. Laura Frantz actually should be titled as the TLS Visitor.

VAC September Financial Report: Copies of the September 2018 Year to Date Financial Report and September Financial Report were made available to all delegates and alternates.

The VAC Office addressed 45 requests for financial assistance to 9 unique clients for a total of \$3,115.14 in Veterans Assistance during September. The office submitted 41 new Claims to the US Department of Veterans Affairs during September, and a year to date total of 343 applications for VA Disability and Pension Claims. Year to Date the VAC has successfully prosecuted 166 outstanding claims for a total benefit to our local veterans of \$1,879,593. This equates to \$6.31 coming back to McHenry County for each VAC budget dollar spent. The VAC used 44.36% of the allotted funds in the VAC budget up through September. This is less than the 83.33% allotted in the VAC budget up through September The allotted budget is \$671,037.00 and the 2018 tax levy was \$325,000 00.. The VAC may need to draw up to \$71,907.48 from the reserve fund as the projected budget usage may exceed the \$325,000.00 tax levy by that amount. Frank Steckleberg (AL Post #119) made the motion to accept the September VAC financial reports as read. Mike Wisniewski (MOC P.T. #79) seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. A question was presented by Harry VanBeetz of VFW Post #12014 on whether the VAC assistance guidelines are too strict in allowing needy veteran families to apply for VAC financial assistance. The answer is: The Commission had set the VAC financial assistance qualification standards to assist veteran families whose income fall below 150% of the Health & Human Services Poverty Level. (The poverty level tables range from a related household of 1 to a household of 8) The commission can raise the VAC assistance level thresholds in the VAC assistance guidelines by a motion and vote on it as a resolution for adoption in the VAC assistance guidelines.

Public Participation:

1) Mr.Don Curfman gave a briefing on the VA Open House Forum on September 19th, 2018 at the McHenry County College Black Box Theater. 35 attendees discussed veterans' issues and benefits with acting VA Director, Mrs. Anna McBarron. One issue was the difficulty for veterans to file successful VA disability claims for burn pit related medical issues due to ongoing VA research into the harm the burn pit pollution causes to people in the area and the need to establish presumptive medical conditions for VA medical care and disability ratings. The college will begin spring semester course signups on November 5th, 2018. VAC VSO, Victor Samoza has been doing yeoman service at MCC by assisting student veterans with their issues with VA educational benefits, filing VA disability claims, and other issues. Mr. Don Curfman is seeking to retire soon. The Commission gave Don Curfman a standing ovation for his tireless work as the liaison between the commission and the student veteran association.

Correspondence:

1) No correspondence.

Committee Reports:

Executive Board Meeting: No report.

By-Laws: No Report.

Corporate Report: The VAC Inc held their regular monthly meeting prior to the regular meeting.

Public Relations Committee: No report.

Report of IACVAC Delegates: The IACVAC meeting and veteran service officer recertification course that convened At East Peoria, had the following results: VAC Superintendent, Michael Iwanicki and VSO #1 Jane Dorfner were recertified as qualified Veteran Service Officers. The IACVAC session discussed veteran-related issues such as changes in the VA aid and assistance veteran asset limits, VA work on blocking agencies charging fees to assist veterans in filing VA paperwork. The statehouse had in the past attempted to change the VA disabled veteran real estate tax exemption laws. There is speculation that a push may occur after the November elections. Such a change may reduce the ceiling from properties with a market value of \$450K to \$300K and / or based on the veterans individual inability to perform work (as implied in recent local News articles).

Superintendents Report:

1) The Commission is studying the proposal the VAC Superintendent aired on providing transportation to veteran clients who are approved for Community Care for certain medical conditions. A couple of tasks need to be done such as: A. Send a VAC survey out to clients who may need this transportation service. B. Determine the costs that the VAC will incur for providing this transportation. C. Figure out the logistics of providing drivers and vehicles for this enhanced transportation service without affecting the transportation service for clients transits to and the VA medical facilities such as the Capt. Lovell FHCC clinics.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to Old Business.

- 1) The VAC Staff Compensation Resolution that was presented to the commission by the McHenry County Board, based on the County Policy and adopted by the Commission for further action is still wending its way through the bureaucracy. It passed the HR Committee by a 3 to 2 vote and passed the finance committee by a 6 to 1 vote. It came up to the McHenry County Board, who tabled the resolution! Chairman, Joe Kersten asked for guidance from the Commission on how to resolve this issue, by opening the floor for discussions. The lively debate came up with this action—No compromising with the Board in reducing the compensation rates—stay with the archer study based resolution as approved with the Commission and in compliance with State law.
- 2) The VA Choice program is now Community Care. With the expanded funding to care for veterans, there is a possibility that dental services may become available. The VA currently made reduced cost dental insurance through its VADIP program.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to New Business:

- 1) The VAC staff is proposing to conduct stakeholder meetings at the various Posts.
- 2) The VAC submitted a proposal to provide dental insurance to low income veteran assistance clients. This proposal arose because the VA provides very limited dental care services and most veteran clients do not meet the standards to get this care. The VAC propose to use the model dental plan used by the Madison County VAC. See the attached proposal for details.
- 3) The VAC submitted a proposal for the VAC to provide transportation services for veteran clients who are assigned medical care under the 'VA Choice' contracted civilian healthcare facilities. Some of the proposal details are in the Superintendents Report and in the attached resolution form.
- 4) Chairman, Joe Kersten turned the floor over to Eugene Boxlietner for the initial nomination of candidates to run for VAC officers for the 2019 to 2021 term of office IAW the VAC By-Law

Article VI, Section 4 through Section 9. Here is the slate of candidates: Chairman---Joseph Kersten Junior Vice Chairman---Frank Steckleberg Judge Advocate-----Harry VanBeetz. The initial nomination process was closed, with the process to reopen during the November VAC general meeting prior to the officer elections.

5) The proposed change to change the VAC By-Laws IAW the agenda was not accomplished.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor for the good of the association.

- 1) The upcoming Veteran Day Celebrations are coming up in November. The Northwest Herald and other local papers will list the events.
- 2) The local schools will ask for veterans to speak at their veteran day rallies—do this.
- 3) A copy of the sitting McHenry County Board members is available. Use it to support the VAC Compensation Proposal.

The Benediction: Chaplain, Eugene Boxlietner gave the Benediction.

The Colors were saluted.

Chairman, Joseph Kersten adjourned the meeting at 12017 Hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael F Wisniewski

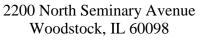
Michael F. Wisniewski

(Electronically Signed)



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

OF McHENRY COUNTY





Michael A Iwanicki Superintendent

October 25, 2018

Proposal to Provide Transportation Service to "VA Choice" Contracted Facilities

Background:

Phone (815) 334-4229

In response to problems getting veterans into primary care appointments within 30 days (as illustrated in the Phoenix Arizona Fake Books incident). Congress had initially authorized the VA to provide for outside care to veterans living greater than 40 miles from a VA health care facility. The program was later expanded to provide specialized care whenever the VA is unable to see the veteran patient within 30 days. For the upcoming fiscal year it appears that the VA was provided additional funding to expand its Community Care program. The continued expansion of the Choice Program is providing veterans with faster service and frees the VA to use private care services rather than hire certain specialties.

The Issue

Some of our clients have a difficult time getting to the Lovell FHCC without the VAC Transportation Service. Short of the VA contracting with specialty clinics close to the veteran's home, many of our transportation clients would continue to need assistance getting to the specialty clinics contracted with the VA. Although some are in fact local (Retina Care in Crystal Lake, Day Care Woodstock and Huntley) many facilities are not (Dermatology in Libertyville). Thanks to greater efficiencies at both the McHenry VA Clinic and the Lovell FHCC our transportation clients are able to get care without having to constantly return to Lovell. This has resulted with a decline in the use of the VAC Transportation Service.

Discovery

The first step is to hear from our current and past clients. A survey can be developed to find out if our transportation clients need this kind of expanded service. The Survey can also explore other options involving transportation which the client sees as important.

The VAC would also present a proposal to the VHA at the Service Officers meeting at the Lovell FHCC in order to hear what feedback is being provided the VHA and onsite Service Officers.

Follow-Up

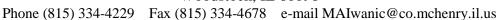
Upon completion of the Discovery stage the information gathered would be shared with the Board of Directors during the December 2018 meeting. Findings and recommendations would be then presented to the Commission as a whole during the January 2019 meeting. Implementation can begin as soon after the Commission's approval.



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

OF McHENRY COUNTY

2200 North Seminary Avenue Woodstock, IL 60098





October 25, 2018

Proposal to Provide Dental Insurance to Low Income Veterans Assistance Clients

Background:

The VA has acknowledged that Dental Care is an important concern for the veterans they serve. In response, the VHA has funded a Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Program. Many of our Veterans Financial Assistance Clients are unable to provide for dental care on their own. The coverage would be over and above Veterans Financial Assistance. Our plan would model the VAC of Madison County Plan. In Madison County dentists seem willing to donate some of the services in order to keep within the plan. The VAC would assist with Co-Pays for emergency dental (fillings, denture repair, and extraction), the veterans would be responsible for co-pays moving forward.

Proposed Requirements:

- The eligible veteran must be receiving financial assistance from the VAC of McHenry County.
- The eligible veteran must use the VA for his/her health care
- The eligible veteran does not have dental insurance from any other source, and is not eligible for dental care from the VA.

Who would be covered:

The Veteran and his/her spouse or partner

Projected Annual Cost:

	Annual Maximum	Insurance Cost	Max Copay Covered
Veteran Alone	\$1,000.00	\$327.00	\$673.00
Veteran & Spouse	\$1,300.00	\$621.00	\$679.00

MetLife provides a comprehensive plan without a waiting period of 6-12 months as other plans require. A surviving spouse is not eligible to receive VA Health Care thus would not be eligible for the MetLife plan. A typical plan would have coverage for cleanings and fillings but would not cover major work for 6-12 months after the beginning of coverage. Assuming 50 eligible veterans the total cost to the Veterans Assistance Line Item would be \$50.000.00.

Example of Coverage

Cost of Service	% Coverage	VAC Pay	Insurance Covers	Vet Pays
\$1,300.00	30	\$673.00	\$390.00	\$237.00
\$1,300.00	50	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$0.00

Superintendents September Financial Report – October 17, 2018 Financial Report Highlights for the Month of September 2018

Veterans Assistance Expenditures

131

Αu	

Month Financial Granted Requests 100.00

Housing	\$	1,959.00	4
Utilities	\$	988.85	7
Indp Living	\$	-	0
Gasoline	\$	-	0
Transportation	\$	67.29	30
Total	\$	3,115.14	45
Total Requests	0		
Total Requests			15

Food

Unique Clients

Year To Date Fianncial

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Granted	Requests
\$ 1,925.00	77
\$ 30,234.95	61
\$ 10,075.90	84
\$ 4,643.29	15
\$ -	0
\$ 240.81	76
\$ 47,119.95	313
	10
	247

Utilities Granted

	Month		Requests
Gas	\$	621.85	2
Electric	\$	78.00	2
Phone	\$	20.00	1
Water / Sewer	\$	269.00	0
Garbage	\$	-	0
Total Utility	\$	988.85	5

Yea	r to Date	Requests
\$	2,641.20	23
\$	5,252.98	28
\$	683.64	18
\$	1,160.29	10
\$	337.79	5
\$	10,075.90	84

Total Expenditures

Month \$ 28,936.64

9

Year to Date \$ 297,680.61

Projected Annual Less: Funded by Levy Projected Reserve Add (Use) 396,907.48 325,000.00 (71,907.48)

VA Disability and Pension Claims

New VA Claims VA Paperwork Processed VA Claims Awarded 2018 New Claims \$\$ Awarded 2018 VA Award Ratio to VAC Total Expense (per 4 Year Cummulative Awards 2018 Value

Month	Υe	ear to Date
19		343
248		2917
		166
	\$	1,879,593
\$1)	\$	6.31
	\$	9,896,220

VetraSpec Applicante Township

	Applicants lownship			
	Township	Мо	nthly Total	YTD Total
	Alden	\$	-	\$ -
	Algonquin	\$	1,463.71	\$ 10,655.73
	Burton	\$	-	\$ 622.72
	Chemung	\$	502.00	\$ 5,513.50
	Coral	\$	-	\$ -
	Dorr	\$	-	\$ 5,303.87
	Dunham	\$	-	\$ 50.00
	Grafton	\$	300.00	\$ 2,400.00
	Greenwood	\$	-	\$ 1,778.00
	Hartland	\$	-	\$ -
	Hebron	\$	655.00	\$ 7,421.15
	Marengo	\$	-	\$ -
	McHenry	\$	238.14	\$ 9,596.69
	Nunda	\$	-	\$ 0.00
	Richmond	\$	502.00	\$ 2,899.36
	Riley	\$	-	\$ -
	Seneca	\$	-	\$ 564.12
	Totals	\$	3,660.85	\$ 46,805.14
Total	Townships		6	12

VAC Lovell FHCC Transportation Service 75

VA Hospital Applications Year to Date

		Month			Annual		
Miles		2178				22715	
Passengers		201				2129	
Driver Cost	\$	3,073.13			\$	36,031.47	
Dispatch-Adm	\$	2,310.92			\$	20,798.28	
Vehicle Cost	\$	747.45			\$	9,943.71	
Total	\$	6,131.49			\$	66,773.46	
Costrper Rider	\$	30.50			\$	31.36	
Goal Costper Rideris <				35.00			
Bus Fund	\$	5,717.58					

Superintendents September Financial Report – October 17, 2018

Year to Date

Personnel		1						83.33%		
Line No.	Line Item	П	Budgeted		Expended		Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	Projecte d
30	10 Salaries	\$	211,283.00	\$	116,670.36	\$	94,612.64	55.2%	44.8%	\$ 140,004.43
302	20 Part Time	\$	-	\$	7,801.78	\$	(7,801.78)	0.0%	0.0%	\$ 9,362.14
302	25 Holiday Pay	\$	11,120.00	\$	3,944.46	\$	7,175.54	35.5%	64.5%	\$ 4,733.35
303	30 Per Diem	\$	55,003.00	\$	19,891.73	\$	35,111.27	36.2%	63.8%	\$ 23,870.08
	10 Over Time Salaries	\$	500.00	\$	275.62	\$	224.38	55.1%	44.9%	\$ 330.74
	0 Merit Pool	\$	6,242.00	\$	-	\$	6,242.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
	00 Uniform All.	\$		\$	29.00	\$	321.00	8.3%	91.7%	\$ 34.80
	05 SS/Co. Share	\$		\$	11,328.50	\$	10,408.50	52.1%	47.9%	\$ 13,594.20
	10 IMRF	\$,	\$,	\$	11,513.67	49.6%	50.4%	\$ 13,578.40
31	16 Hith. Ins.	\$	72,463.00	\$	18,577.21	\$	53,885.79	25.6%	74.4%	\$ 22,292.65
Personnel		\$	401,527.00	\$	189,833.99	\$	211,693.01	47.28%	52.72%	\$ 227,800.79
Contra ctura	I & Assistance		Budge te d	Ī	Expended		Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
400	01 Contract Service	\$	4,000.00	\$	2,700.00	\$	1,300.00	67.5%	32.5%	\$ 3,240.00
400	05 Dues/Mbrshps	\$	1,000.00	\$	724.00	\$	276.00	72.4%	27.6%	\$ 868.80
400	06 Training	\$	1,800.00	\$	1,190.00	\$	610.00	66.1%	33.9%	\$ 1,428.00
400	08 Subscriptions	\$	250.00	\$	174.20	\$	75.80	69.7%	30.3%	\$ 209.04
	34 Specific Insurance	\$	11,000.00	\$	8,920.20	\$	2,079.80	81.1%	18.9%	\$ 10,704.24
404	15 Directors Insurance	\$	5,500.00	\$	4,280.00	\$	1,220.00	77.8%	22.2%	\$ 5,136.00
40	55 Contract Printing	\$	2,500.00	\$	1,058.64	\$	1,441.36	42.3%	57.7%	\$ 1,270.37
406	60 Legal Note/Adv.	\$	2,500.00	\$	755.75	\$	1,744.25	30.2%	69.8%	\$ 906.90
	96 Telecomm.	\$	1,600.00	\$	862.56	\$	737.44	53.9%	46.1%	\$ 1,035.07
420	00 Vets Assist	\$	180,000.00	\$	48,067.95	\$	131,932.05	26.7%	73.3%	\$ 57,681.54
42	16 Medical Service	\$	750.00	\$	580.00	\$	170.00	77.3%	22.7%	\$ 696.00
42	1 PreEmp Physical	\$	_	\$	-	\$	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ -
	06 Vehicle Maint. *	\$	7,500.00	\$	4,293.80	\$	3,206.20	57.3%	42.7%	\$ 5,152.56
432	21 Software Maint.	\$	1,800.00	\$	1,745.00	\$	55.00	96.9%	3.1%	\$ 2,094.00
	70 Legal Services	\$	1,000.00	\$	131.25	\$	868.75	13.1%	86.9%	\$ 157.50
Contra ctura		\$	221,200.00	\$	75,352.10	\$	144,847.90	34.07%	65.48%	\$ 90,422.52
Supplies &	Equipment		Budge te d	Т	Expended		Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	,
	10 Off. Supplies	\$		\$		\$	536.42	58.7%	41.3%	\$ 916.30
	20 Off. Equip.	\$				\$	445.00	40.7%	59.3%	\$ 366.00
	10 Mileage	\$	2.000.00	\$		\$	1,001.39	49.9%	50.1%	\$ 1,198.33
	50 Mtg. Exp.	\$	9.500.00	\$	3,434.42	\$	6,065.58	36.2%	63.8%	\$ 4,121.30
	71 Promo Items	\$	1,000.00	\$	-	\$	1,000.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
51	15 Comp. Hardware	\$		\$	_	\$, -	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ -
	25 Comp. Software	\$	500.00	\$	_	\$	500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ _
	30 POL *	\$	6,500.00	\$	2,949.91	\$	3,550.09	45.4%	54.6%	\$ 3,539.89
52 ⁻	10 Publications	\$	100.00	\$	-	\$	100.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
	1 Promo Events	\$	1,500.00	\$	275.00	\$	1,225.00	18%	82%	\$ 330.00
Equipment		\$	23,150.00	\$	8,726.52	\$	14,423.48	37.70%	62.30%	\$ 10,471.82
Other		П	Budge te d	_	Expended		Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	,
	20 Vehicle	\$		\$		\$	832.00	96.6%	3.4%	\$ 28,521.60
	10 Fund Bal. Enh.	\$		-	,:	\$	560.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$,
Totals		-		-	297,680.61	-	372,356.39	44.36%	55.49%	\$ 357,216.73
		- 10								

Septen	nbe	r 2018 Reco	ncil	liation	
September Auditor *					\$ 3,265.14
Less					
Volunteer / Tax	ki Tra	ansportation	\$	(67.29)	
Food Vouchers	s		\$	(250.00)	
August Assistar	nce		\$	-	
			\$	-	\$ (317.29)
					\$ 2,947.85
Add:					
Food Issued			\$	100.00	
Outstanding Fu	ıel		\$	-	
Awaiting Paym	ent	G1781-20	\$	613.00	\$ 713.00
					\$ 3,660.85
September 4200 VetraSp	ec				
* Total does not include for	bod	vouchers issued.			